



Rear Admiral William “Dean” Lee

Commander, District Five



Rear Admiral William “Dean” Lee assumed command of the Fifth Coast Guard District in June 2010. In this capacity, he has overall responsibility for the full range of Coast Guard maritime safety and security missions carried out in the mid-Atlantic region, from central New Jersey through North Carolina.

His most recent Flag assignment was as Commander, Deployable Operations Group (DOG), headquartered in Arlington, Va. As the DOG Commander, Rear Admiral Lee directed 27 deployable, specialized force units and more than 3,000 Coast Guard personnel operating in support of response, recovery and defense operations worldwide.

Rear Admiral Lee served as the Chief of Staff at the Seventh District in Miami, FL, where he was promoted to Flag Rank in May 2009. A specialist in Boat Operations and Search and Rescue, Rear Admiral Lee has served in a variety of assignments along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts. The Fifth Coast Guard District is his sixth Command assignment.

Rear Admiral Lee’s prior operational assignments include: Commander, Deployable Operations Group (2009-2010); Commander, Sector North Carolina (2005-2007); Commander, Coast Guard Group Fort Macon (2000-2003); Commander, Group Monterey, California (1995-1997); Commanding Officer, Station Atlantic City, New Jersey (1988-1991); and Assistant Operations Officer at Group St. Petersburg, Florida (1981-1984).

His most noteworthy and personally satisfying staff assignment was as the Chief, Office of Boat Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC from 2003 to 2005. His responsibilities included program management and oversight of the Coast Guard’s 1,800 boats, including the development of operational doctrine, training requirements, and safety parameters related thereto. His duties also included oversight of the National Motor Lifeboat School, the only training facility in the nation specifically dedicated to Heavy Weather boat operations and Surf Training.

Other staff assignments include: Chief of Search and Rescue, Fifth Coast Guard District, (1998-2000); Chief of the Atlantic Area Command Center (1997-1998); Branch Chief, Search and Rescue Division, Coast Guard Headquarters (1991-1995), and Instructor, Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, VA (1984-1988).

Rear Admiral Lee is a native of Richmond, Virginia, and a 1981 graduate of Officer Candidate School. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Alabama, and a Master of Arts from George Washington University.